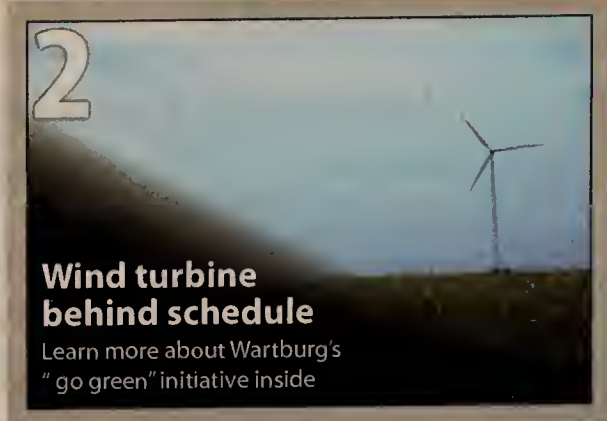
SEPTEMBER 29, 2008 VOLUME 103, NUMBER 3

WARTBURG TRUMPET



Circuit Exclusives

- Students participate in political conventions
- Goodwill lets 20 mentally challenged workers go

WEATHER

T	W	H	F	S	Su	M
62	66	66	69	69	69	69
41	37	40	45	46	49	49

Getting SMART about campus safety

Submitted Photo

Kristyn Moravetz, along with the other members of SMART, went around checking people's doors to make sure they were locked and students were safe. If the door was locked, the room recieved a green sheet of paper congratulating them for being safe.

BRITTANY FEAGANS *PHOTO EDITOR*

Only 68 percent of students routinely locked their doors at night last week according to Wartburg's Sexual Misconduct and Assault Resource Team, SMART.

SMART conducted a series of door checks spread out over a two-day period, sliding cards under unlocked doors to make students aware of the risks an unlocked door poses.

"It's a matter of being responsible to keep yourself safe. Not only for personal safety, but also to keep your belongings safe," Molly Wertz, a faculty advocate of the organization, said.

SMART has determined students in first-year dorms, such as Clinton and the Complex, were better about locking their doors, with approximately 75 percent of their doors locked. Meanwhile, the rest of campus only locked about half of their doors.

Although no thefts or sexual assaults have been reported yet this academic year, Director of Campus Security and Safety John Myers III does not expect Wartburg to remain immune from crime.

"First-year students are very trusting. If they're an honest person they expect everyone else to be too," Myers said. "We hardly ever see problems in Knights Village or the Manors because people know each other and who they can trust."

The goal of the SMART organization is to educate and assist people in the Wartburg community who are dealing with circumstances surrounding sexual misconduct.

"Many students think nothing can happen at Wartburg because it is a small school in a small town, but there have, in fact, been instances of robbery, voyeurism and other crimes right at Wartburg in the last few years," Sarah Frazell, co-president of SMART said.

Kayla Chapin was the recipient of a red notification from SMART, reminding her of the risks of not locking her door at night.

"I don't know my roommates' schedules well enough to know when they're in the room or not, nor do I know if they have their keys with them," Chapin said. "I also don't have anything of value in the main room.

See SMALL COLLEGE **page 2**

Diversity increases, fall enrollment slightly down

SEE IT. WTV 8 READ IT.

JACKIE ALBRECHT *NEWS EDITOR*

Overall enrollment is down eleven students, while diversity on campus has increased by one percent compared to last year, according to 08-09 enrollment figures released by the college.

There are 1,799 students enrolled at Wartburg this year, Vice President for Enrollment Management Edith Waldstein said. She also said there are 550 full-time first-year students, compared to last year's first-year class of 584.

"We intentionally recruited a smaller class this year because we want to try and keep the classes as equal in size as possible," Waldstein said. Fourteen percent of the student body is considered diverse, compared to last year's diversity of 13 percent. There are 99 international students and 140 students of color.

"That is a very high percentage for a college like Wartburg located in a state like Iowa," Waldstein said.

Twenty-seven states and 40 countries are represented at Wartburg this year, and the male to female ratio is 47:53.

"We're a little bit heavier on the women's side this year than we normally are, but we are still very, very balanced," Waldstein said. Although Wartburg is a Lutheran college, only 40 percent of Wartburg students are Lutheran.

"We're doing very well in terms of having a diversity of religious affiliations. We have 30 distinct religious affiliations in the entire student body, which I think is great," Waldstein said.

The average ACT score for incoming students increased this year to 24.1 from last year's average of 23.7.

See WARTBURG REMAINS **page 2**

Wartburg College

Enrollment **Facts**

- Total Students: 1,799
- First-year Students: 550
- Transfer Students: 36
- International Students: 99
- Male to Female Ratio: 47:53
- Countries represented: 40
- States represented: 27
- Percent of students from Iowa: 72

Graphic by Krista Tessman

Flood causes businesses to close for good

JOSH MONIZ *STAFF WRITER*

Most Waverly businesses have rebuilt and reopened after the heavy summer flooding, but some businesses like The Floodzone and Gary Busse's accounting firm are closed for good.

Nancy Nass owned The Floodzone, which was originally located in Horton, but as the business expanded, Nass relocated it to Waverly. She rented out space near the Bremer Ave. bridge. It was only open for six months before this summer's flooding damaged the building.

"The owners of the building didn't have flood insurance on it. Therefore, they weren't going to fix it back up," said Nass.

Nass currently has no future plans to open another business.

Busse also lost his business due to the flooding. Busse is a certified public accountant, who owned his own private firm. He moved to Waverly in 1976, one year after he took control of the firm.

The work Busse did as the floodwaters were rising helped minimize the damage to his building, although he still lost 25 percent of his paperwork. The loss, coupled with the recent loss of his eyesight, helped Busse decide to sell the firm and retire.

"I am 69-and-a-half-years old. I was not going to retire, then came the flood, and I had no insurance.

"At my age, there's no way you can start over. So, to this day, I say the good Lord was saying to me, Larry you've done enough and so I quit," Busse said.

Busse and Nass both said FEMA was unable to give them aid, and instead referred them to SPA to possibly obtain a loan. Both turned down the idea, because they didn't feel economically secure.

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Bowling alley strikes back

ANDREW NOSTVICK *OP/ED EDITOR*

The Waverly Bowl Inn has reopened for business after three months of rebuilding from the floods that hit Waverly.

The Bowl Inn opened its doors to the public on Friday evening. However, according to the owner, some issues still need to be worked out.

"We're still putting some things together, especially our kitchen," Waverly Bowl Inn owner Keith Denton said. "Right now our kitchen is limited food service."

Denton said the bowling alley had originally planned to open Sept. 18, but that changed.

"We didn't feel comfortable being open for bowling. We wanted to spend the time getting some more items put together so we have a better atmosphere," Denton said. "The alley was open to leagues last weekend, in order to get a head start on the public."

Denton estimated that the total cost for fixing the alley was around $250,000. He said the alley does have flood insurance. The bowling alley didn't need to replace the lanes.

"It was all pretty minor, and we're very thankful for that, because it would have been a huge expense to have a company come in and pull those and replace them, or pull them and re-lay them," Denton said.

It was strange for Denton and his bowling alley not to be open to start the season. It was also hard to be closed down for the summer.

"We were really starting to miss the bowling noise. It was our normal business noise. We were getting real

See BOWL INN EXCITED **page 2**

News

Small town colleges still touched by various crimes

Graphic by Krista Tessman

FROM PAGE 1

Although Waverly is generally a safe place, students who let their guard down set themselves up for danger," Frazell said.

"The fact that there is a need for our organization in the first place speaks volumes to the fact that sexual assault can happen anywhere, anytime, to anyone," Frazell said.

"Last school year between security reports and reports to S.M.A.R.T. members, there were 10 known instances of sexual assault to students on campus. It is estimated that many more were not reported to anyone."

According to Wartburg College crime statistics, 12 forcible sex offenses, two aggravated assaults and 16 burglaries were reported to security between 2005 and 2007. The unsolved murder of Wartburg student Lisa Peak in 1976 shows there is still the potential for capital crime to occur in Waverly.

"In the course of a year there were three murders in Bremer County. All three were young women; all three were unsolved," Myers said.

While there was no evidence that Peak was abducted from her room, a recent case that has caught media attention is that of Brianna Denison.

Denison, a college student at Santa Barbara City College, was abducted in January as she slept on a friend's couch in Reno, Nev. The front door was unlocked. Denison's body was found three weeks later, the victim of a serial rapist.

"There is a common misconception that small towns in the Midwest are always safe, so it does not occur to a lot of students to lock their doors," Frazell said.

Wertz agrees. "It's just a good idea to take precautions to keep yourself safe, like by locking your doors, not walking alone at night, and being aware of your surroundings.

"Trust your gut instinct. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't," Wertz said.

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Wartburg remains academically strong

FROM PAGE 1

The top five majors this year are the same as last year: business administration, biology, communication arts, elementary education and music education.

However, psychology is a close sixth with only six less students than music education, Waldstein said.

In recent years, many people have chosen to leave Iowa, which means there is a smaller pool of potential students to recruit from, Waldstein said.

"The number of colleges and universities isn't diminishing, so there is more competition," Waldstein said. "Wartburg is one of the strongest colleges in Iowa and in the region, so I know we will be very competitive and we will work hard to be competitive."

Wartburg's goal is to have enrollment grow incrementally between 0.5 to 1.5 percent each year Waldstein said.

"This didn't happen this year... We brought in an exceptionally large class last year, and we didn't feel we wanted to do that again."

Waldstein noted that although the retention report isn't completed yet, the current signs show that retention is quite strong.

Contact Jackie Albrecht at
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College-funded turbine behind schedule

ELLEN KURT *ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR*

It is taking longer to build a Wartburg funded turbine than expected by Waverly Light and Power.

"Because we are only buying two, it's taking a long time to get them. Wind farms are going up everywhere, and they need 20 or 30 of them at a time, so we got pushed aside," Director of Advancement Communication and member of Waverly Light and Power's Board of Trustees Linda Moeller said.

This turbine will be put up outside of Waverly to offset the carbon energy used in Waverly and particularly "The W."

This will cost the college two million dollars over 20 years.

There have been buildings that have gone up in past years that have doubled in size. These buildings include the Library, the Science Center, and "The W." Wartburg and Waverly Light and Power talked about earth-friendly ways to fuel these places. Waverly Light and Power had already decided that they were putting up a turbine, so Wartburg decided to fund another.

The Wellness Center is 200,000 sq. feet, and Wartburg wanted to make a statement about lowering the carbon energy used, Moeller said.

"This is a way for the college to say 'we realize that we're using more energy, but also off setting the energy by our commitment to renewable energy," Moeller said.

Currently, preperations to the ground where the turbine will sit are being made. Then, the materials for the actual turbine can be delivered.

In November, when all of the materials will be in, there will be an open house.

"The open house will be kind of fun for people to see how deep the wind turbines go and how big they are, because you can really see it on the ground," Moeller said.

Amanda Gahler/*TRUMPET*

The new turbine, similar to the one pictured above, will help offset the carbon energy used in "The W."

This turbine is a part of Waverly Light and Power's goal of using 20 percent renewable energy by 2020.

Wartburg is trying to show students they are committed to the environment and to the support of renewable energy.

Gary Grace, vice president for administration and member of Waverly City Council, said, "This is a great demonstration of Wartburg's mission statement. It teaches leadership and service which can not only be used in college, but in life."

Grace also said that if students are interested in knowing how much energy will be saved by the use of turbine, there will be a computer in "The W" displaying those figures.

Contact Ellen Kurt at
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Bowl Inn excited to be open

FROM PAGE 1

antsy to start here, hearing the pins crash," Denton said.

Denton said that Quartermania will be back and that improvements were made to Saturday night Cosmic Bowling.

"We're just so focused this summer on getting this place open that we weren't able to focus on some of our fall, winter programs that we want to run," Denton said.

Nicole Walker has worked at the Bowl-Inn for over a year now, while attending Wartburg. To help with the clean up effort, Walker did such things as tearing down and painting new walls.

Walker is very excited to see the Bowl-Inn re-open again. She said that everyone has been asking about it.

"Because the alley is small, you get to know all the customers really well. The league bowlers make my job so interesting and I've been glad for the start of the fall league," Walker said.

"I'm really excited to open back up to the pubic. You get to know so many community members through the alley and I can't wait to see everyone I missed this summer."

Contact Andrew Nostvick at
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OP/ED

Letter to the editor

Offshore drilling isn't the answer

To the editor:

I would like to respond to Seth Drury's case for drilling for oil offshore and in the ANWR (9/22 Trumpet).

First, Mr. Drury mentions new technologies that eliminate the risk of oil spills. I had not heard that we have developed any such technologies. The human factor, if nothing else, always presents a substantial risk.

Second, Mr. Drury did not specify how long it would be before Alaskan crude gets into the system.

Most analysts estimate 10 years or more. Analysts also tell us that the additional oil would reduce oil and fuel prices very little, about a dollar a barrel at best, a few cents at the pump.

Third, the most effective short-term strategy for increasing the supply of oil is economizing.

For example, if we had the political will, we could lower the speed limit to 55 mph nationwide, just like we did in the early '70s. The savings were enormous.

My mini van gets 18 mpg at 70 mph and 27 mpg at 55 mph. If you want to save energy immediately, slow down, adjust your tire pressure and ride your bike or walk when possible.

Finally, how shall we calculate the value of preserving the wildness of the earth and avoiding potential harm to the environment? How much is the health of our coastal waters worth?

What price can be set on wild creatures and a pristine wilderness? What are we willing to pay to slow climate change?

Shall we put at risk our natural world in order to save a nickel at the pump 10 years from now? We need to go green now.

Brian Jones

Student outraged by swastikas

PHOEBE GYAMERA *STAFF COLUMNIST*

I couldn't believe my eyes when I read the article in last week's edition of the Trumpet about Swastikas that were drawn in Clinton Hall. Swastikas in the 21st century?

What baffled me the most was not the actual drawings but the so-called reason behind the drawings. How can someone under the influence draw 25 of these hateful, hurtful, disgusting and discriminating things?

Even if the culprit was under the influence of alcohol, one shabbily drawn swastika would be enough before he passed out, but 25 just gave him something to do?

My friends, we are dealing with a bigoted student. How many students like him are on campus?

What will you do if you find out that a person you are assigned to for a group project has been involved in this kind of behavior?

These are questions that are making us feel insecure. I'm really upset and disappointed at Wartburg and the way they are handling this situation.

Wake up! This is not about drunkenness, it is about a larger issue. This student obviously has some issues that can be dangerous to my fellow minority students and that seems to be of less concern to Wartburg.

I'm not just writing out of anger, but I'm trying to make people aware of this matter and in the process ward off future offenders.

This great country has come a long way in dealing with emotionally charged issues such as bigotry and racism. Please do not take us back.

The last thing we want is to feel threatened in our own school. Wartburg College prides itself on being a college that embraces diversity. This is your chance to prove it.

A word of wisdom to Wartburg: Do the right thing.

Contact Phoebe Gyamera at Phoebe.Gyamera@wartburg.edu

From the Other Side of the Desk

The importance of family time

BRIAN BIRGEN
ASSOCIATE MATH PROFESSOR

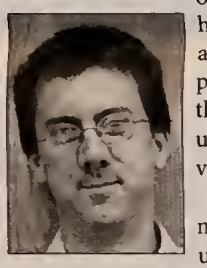
This morning as I was walking my six-year-old son to kindergarten, he saw some graffiti written on a street lamp. He chuckled and said it was cool. I replied that I didn't think it was nice to write on other people's things without their permission and that I thought that vandalism was bad.

A few minutes later we heard the siren of an ambulance and observed how all the cars pulled over the side of the road to let the emergency vehicle through. We had a discussion about the importance of working together to help out in times of emergency.

I appreciate the time I spend walking my children to school most mornings.

We have had conversations about the curvature of the earth, how to treat your friends, proper nutrition, the political process and a host of other varied topics.

I used to be concerned that I would have a very limited influence on my children after they started attending school and were exposed to the limitless knowledge of their peers on the playground. However, the 15 minutes I spend walking with them, talking about topics of no particular organization have become an access point into their continued moral development.



I worry that most people undervalue their time. It is especially easy to focus on career advancement and higher salaries over quality of life.

My brother lives in southern California and easily spends three or more hours each day driving on the freeway between meetings with his clients.

He also makes more than twice the money I do and has a beautiful house, but I have no desire to trade places with him.

After each of our children were born my wife and I arranged our teaching schedules to allow us to bring the new infant with us to work, so that my wife could continue to breast-feed and so that we would have more time to get to know our children. That is an experience I will always treasure.

It seems that there are many varied demands on our time. The exchange for lower prices at the store is a longer wait for checkout. You can get a "free meal" if you listen to a sales pitch for a vacation timeshare.

Many stores use the lure of improved service to convince you to spend 15 minutes filling out an on-line survey. Our time is valuable, and we need to be deliberate with our choices and save it for those causes that are most important to us.

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THE Circuit

Want more opinions?
Check out the all-new blogs at The Circuit Web site!
info.wartburg.edu/thecircuit/

Be Heard!

Faculty, administrators and staff members are encouraged to submit columns for the Trumpet editorial page. Topics are of your choosing and might include, but are not limited to: academic issues, department initiatives, research, campus issues and community issues. Please contact editorial page editor Andrew Nostvick at andrew.nostvick@wartburg.edu or adviser Cliff Brockman at cliff.brockman@wartburg.edu.

TRUMPET

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Opinions expressed in the Trumpet are those of the editorial board and are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the administration, faculty or staff at Wartburg College.

Letters to the editor are subject to editing without changing the meaning of the letter. Authors will not be notified of changes prior to publishing. Letters must be signed, fewer than 250 words, submitted by 9 p.m. Thursday and related to current issues in the Wartburg community. Letters may be sent to the communication arts office or e-mailed to trumpet@wartburg.edu. Please type "Letter to the Editor" as the subject line. Publication is at the discretion of the editor.

Paying for college: the real economic issue?

EMILY SCHMITT *KNIGHTLIFE EDITOR*

As the uneasy economy continues to toss and turn and we near the November election, politicians are striving to candy-coat the issue.

As a student handing over thousands of dollars in tuition each year, I am wondering what my financial future will look like.

The cost of everything has been multiplying, along with the cost of a college education.

The anxiety over the cost of college continues to grow while a college education becomes increasingly important.

A college education is becoming a vital part of the American dream. A high school diploma is no longer good enough; it is now just a stepping-stone to the college degree that is viewed as the key to a comfortable, middle-class life.

A survey by NBC News and the Wall Street Journal found 70 percent of respondents were more concerned with the cost of college than with the cost of housing, transportation and retirement.

In the early '90s, when we were just starting elementary school, the public thought there would be too many college graduates and not enough people to work in the trades.

Today, that outlook has changed dramatically; now it seems there can never be too many college graduates. How will this affect me? Can we really never have too many graduates?

I wonder how competitive the work force will be when I graduate. Will my degree from Wartburg be enough or should I spend even more money for additional schooling?

According to he Educational Testing Service, there were about 13.4 million college students in 2000; by 2015, there will be over 16 million.

That shows that more and more students will be taking on more and more debt in the future.

I listen to the experts on Wall Street and the politicians at the Capitol and become unsure. What will the future U.S. economy be like? And how will that affect the demand and cost of a college education?

I guess we will have to wait and see—and hope Wartburg tuition does not rise too much before we graduate.

Contact Emily Schmitt at Emily.Schmitt@wartburg.edu

News

Political satirists to open Artist Series season

ZIRRA BANU *STAFF WRITER*

Wartburg will kick off the Artist Series season with the political satire group Capitol Steps at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Neumann Auditorium.

The Capitol Steps is a group of former U.S. Senate staff members who parody their previous employers and current political endeavors.

Artist Series Director Myrna Culbertson said, "This is a timely and exciting way to kick off the new season."

Because this is an election year, The Capitol Steps had to be booked over two years ago for Wartburg's Artist Series.

"The Capitol Steps is a nationally known group whose forte is political satire at its best," Culbertson said

Tickets are $24 to $35 for adults and $10 for K-12 students. Tickets are available by calling 319-352-8691.

Tickets are free for Wartburg students by showing student IDs at the information desk.

A dinner will occur before Thursday's performance from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Heritage Ballroom. The price to attend is $18.25 per person.

Courtesy Photo

The Capitol Steps will perform at Wartburg this Thursday. This group will be the first of four performances in the Artist Series season.

The Capitol Steps have been featured on ABC, CBS, PBS and NBC. The ensemble has recorded a total of 28 albums.

This is the first of four Artist Series events that will take place this year.

The Artist Series is a Wartburg tradition that has been around for over 90 years.

"The Artist Series is intended to be part of the educational opportunities offered at Wartburg," Culbertson said.

"We encourage students to seize the opportunity to expand their horizons through the various art genres by attending the Artist Series."

SEE IT. WTV8 READ IT.

Contact Zirra Banu at Hyeladzirra.Banu@wartburg.edu

Castle Singers share jazz with high schoolers

ELLEN KURT *ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR*

Castle Singers will run a jazz clinic for high school students Oct. 6 in Austin, Minn.

Allison Schulz was talking with her high school director one day when he asked if it was possible for the Castle Singers to provide a workshop for the Austin High School choir.

Schulz was in her high school choir for three years. She wanted to bring the Castle Singers to her home because jazz is a big part of her life and she wanted to share that.

"This is a great opportunity personally and to show off the Castle Singers because they are such a great group of people," Schulz said.

> *"High school students respond really well to Castle Singers' musicianship, energy, creativity and openness."*
> *-Jane Andrews*

Director of Castle Singers Jane Andrews designed this workshop years ago and adapted it to include Castle Singers. The Castle Singers will perform pieces with different styles of jazz so the high school students learn the sound.

"For many students, this is a creative outlet they are only beginning to tap," Andrews said.

Working with vocal improvisation or scat is the ultimate in musicianship Andrews said. One must hear the choral structure and instantly create music from their head and body, she said.

"The more the students experience the freedom within structure of improvisation, the better they become. Everyone can have a voice using improvisation," Andrews said.

They will start with 12 bar blues, the basic form for much of the music heard today, and then, they will sing some scat. After that, they will start getting the students involved.

The high school students will break into groups and do some conversational scatting. By the time that the students reach the scatting with the entire group, the students are so comfortable that there are more volunteers than time allows.

"They are great role models for the high school students. Because they are more experienced in vocal jazz and have a great time singing this genre, they create an open, positive atmosphere where students with little vocal jazz training will venture a try at improvisation," Andrews said.

The parts Andrews loves the most about these workshops are the positive surprises she hears from both the Castle Singers and the high school students.

"High school students respond really well to Castle Singers' musicianship, energy, creativity and openness. It is a wonderful learning environment," Andrews said.

This is exciting for the Castle Singers, because the more workshops and concerts they do, the more students and directors that convert to performing vocal jazz, the national music of the U.S she said.

The Castle Singers have done many workshops around the United States and the world, so they agreed to travel to Minnesota to help spread their favorite genre of music, jazz.

Contact Ellen Kurt at Ellen.Kurt@wartburg.edu

Students help with flood relief in Cedar Rapids

SARAH MOON STAFF WRITER

Wartburg alumni, students and faculty went to Cedar Rapids Saturday, Sept. 20 to work on a house affected by the summer flooding.

"I know Waverly was hit hard, but when you look at Cedar Rapids there's just no comparison. Cedar Rapids was just devastated," student coordinator Mara Groom said.

While in Cedar Rapids, students worked with a Minneapolis-based organization called Nechama, which means "comfort" in Hebrew.

The private disaster response organization is funded by Jewish auspices, but service trip coordinator Nate Palmolea said Nechama has workers of all religions.

Palmolea said that he met the group over the summer when working with the flood efforts in Waverly.

"They were gracious enough to just come here by themselves," Palmolea said.

Groom said she was appreciative of the group helping them in Cedar Rapids and enjoys working with them.

"I feel like whenever we're with them we get stuff done," Groom said.

The group was only able to work on one house because of the small numbers. Groom said there probably wasn't a bigger group because Manna helped with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity had a work day, both of which were on Saturday. However, she said the group accomplished a lot.

"We pretty much demolished the whole first floor," Groom said. "We took out all of the trim, all of the boards in the wall and we ripped up the floor."

Even though Palmolea didn't go to Cedar Rapids, he said helping in Waverly over the summer was an eye opening experience.

"It was pretty incredible. I had never seen that much water in my life," Palmolea said. "It was just amazing to see people just pitch in and do whatever needed to be done for complete strangers."

Groom also helped with flood efforts in Waverly and thinks the flood brought the town together.

However, she said in Cedar Rapids there were many blocks of empty houses and no people were around.

"In Cedar Rapids it's a little more difficult because you lose that small town feel," Groom said. "There wasn't that 'we're in this together' feel."

Next, Groom and Palmolea will led a service group to Parkersburg Saturday, Oct. 4 to help with tornado relief.

"Waverly's pretty much out of the recovery phase and moving into a more skill based reconstruction phase. So, there's not a whole lot Wartburg students can do in Waverly," Palmolea said.

Students who are interested in going to Parkersburg can sign up in the Student Center, the Center for Community Engagement or e-mail servicetrips@wartburg.edu.

Submitted Photo

Members of the Wartburg community traveled to Cedar Rapids Sept. 20 to help tear down parts of a house affected by the summer flooding.

Contact Sarah Moon at Sarah.Moon@wartburg.edu

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KNIGHTLIFE

Orange Connection partners students with alumni

ARELLA SWAN *STAFF WRITER*

When the name "O.C." is mentioned, many think of the hit television show that was popular on the Fox network. However, Wartburg has its own O.C. on campus.

The Wartburg Orange Connection started in 2006 and works out of the Pathways Center. The program was started by Derek Solheim, associate director of Pathways Center for Career Services, and Jeff Beck, director of alumni and parent programs.

Orange Connection partners Wartburg students with alumni to give the students hands on experience in their field of study. The first group of participants traveled to Chicago during Fall Break in 2006.

The program intends to expand to additional locations. "Right now we have alumni connections in Chicago, but we want to look in other areas such as Minnesota and Des Moines," said Michael Gleason, Pathways associate for mentoring and vocational discovery.

A total of 21 students and 20 alumni have participated in the program since it began.

There are four types of Orange Connection options available to Wartburg students. The program includes traditional, independent, internship and road trip opportunities. These experiences take place during breaks throughout the school year.

The traditional experience involves first and second-year students who job shadow alumni for two days. The independent Orange Connection offers second and third-year students the opportunity to shadow alumni in pairs and develop skills they will use in the workplace. Internships are coordinated with the Center for Community Engagement and an internship coordinator guides students as they plan extended internships with Wartburg salumni. A road trip is a chance for students to visit alumni and interview them about their vocation.

"The Orange Connection is a way for students to interact with alumni and see how they are outside the Wartburg bubble," Gleason said.

"The Orange Connection is for any student who wishes to gain professional mentors and networks, experience life in the city, and, most importantly, expand their own realm of cultural experience."

-Katie Phillips

"For two days, I observed and even taught a few lessons in Patricia Clancy's kindergarten through eighth-grade classroom at Tilton Elementary on the west side of Chicago," Katie Phillips, a fourth year, said. Phillips participated in Orange Connection when it began in 2006.

"The Orange Connection is for any student who wishes to gain professional mentors and networks, experience life in the city and most importantly expand their own realm of cultural experience," Phillips said.

"I highly recommend the program to anyone desiring a unique supplement to their Wartburg education, no matter their major or previous experience," Phillips said.

The deadline to apply for the Orange Connection has been extended to Oct. 8. Applications are available in the Pathways Center and online at www.wartburg.edu/oc.

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AMANDA GAYLER/*TRUMPET*

Ryan Mulkey and President Hamm ham it up with the pep band during Family Weekend.

One school, different challenges

TEALA KRAPFL *STAFF WRITER*

At the end of each summer, students arrive on the Wartburg campus to start a new year, make new friends and learn new things. About 100 of these students are from countries outside the U.S.

International students are at Wartburg for the same reasons as American students, but find themselves facing unique challenges.

Kevin Roiseland, director of international student programming at Wartburg, is in charge of making international students feel comfortable on campus. He offers services which assist international students with things like financing, housing and cultural issues. He also works with international students during Orange EXCELeration.

Jorge Rodriguez, a first year from Columbia, thought EXCELeration was very helpful. "They were giving us hints about how everything works," Rodriguez said.

Kibby Herano of Ethiopia also took part in EXCELeration and found it informationaL, although Herano ran into one issue.

"There were not many opportunities to meet American students," Herano said.

"Due to the way we register international students, there is a tendency to have many in a group," Roiseland said.

However, he points out there are organizations on campus which offer opportunities for interaction between both parties.

Another student, Sejla Trebo of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has taken advantage of these opportunities. Organizations like the International Club (I-Club) offer parties and events which Trebo said "unite international students with Americans outside the classes."

There are opportunities on campus that encourage American and international student to interact with each other. But some students still find that there seems to be a division between the two groups.

"It's quite easier to go to someone who understands you," Trebo said.

"I don't think there is really a relationship between American students and international students," Herano said.

On the other hand, some do not see that as a major issue. "It's more up to the person rather than the cultures," Rodriguez said. "Some want to get to know you and some are shy."

Roiseland said there has always been a clear division between international students and those from America.

However, Roiseland said, "There seems to be a lot more interaction this year."

This is especially true in I-Club, which has seen an increased interest from American students and community members this year

Trebo said she would enjoy more opportunities that engage all students. She would like to see more parties and events that explore American culture, rather than just exploring other foreign cultures.

Roiseland added the reason these international students are here is to get to know American culture. "They're here to make friends, practice English," Roiseland said.

To American students, Roiseland advises, "Making an international student friend is the easiest way to make a friend. You wouldn't realize how easy it is unless you took interest."

"The last thing they'd do is be offended if they were approached," he added. "Americans can be shy, but international students are incredibly gracious."

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Movie Review

"Bottle Shock" worth seeing

JOSH MONIZ *STAFF WRITER*

It will be easy to compare this film to "Sideways," but it can stand on its own.

"Bottle Shock" is the story of a family's struggle to become successful in the winemaking business.

It is set at the famous blind wine-tasting competition that occurred in1976 in Paris.

The contest is also known as "The Judgment of Paris," because the emerging California wine was pitted against the famous French wines, and in an unprecedented upset, the California wines defeated the French wines in all categories.

The movie sports two heavyweight actors, Alan Rickman and Bill Pullman. Rickman plays a British wine snob living in France who orchestrates the competition.

His intentions are less than noble, because he expects the California wines to lose and the success of the French to help him get access to the exclusive wine clubs.

Pullman plays a single father and winemaker from California who wants desperately to succeed.

He has three loans to support his vineyard and could lose everything if he cannot successfully sell his wine.

The supporting roles are lesser-known actors. Chris Pine plays the stereotypical hippie son of Pullman's character. Pine gets into his role, but he is held back because his character does not do anything interesting or likable.

Rachael Taylor, from "Transformers," plays the throwaway love interest. Taylor has style but her character is nothing but a plot point.

Finally, Freddy Rodriguez, who played Wray in "Planet Terror," shows up as the son of an immigrant farmhand with wine making in his blood. His character is interesting and has complexity, but does nothing for the plot.

Despite setbacks, this is a very good film. Nearly every shot features the beautiful Napa Valley, which alone is worth the price of the ticket.

This film is good, but the subject matter is mundane.

The film would have fared better if it had featured more scenes with Rickman because every moment with him is pure entertainment.

In short, if you enjoy charming, quirky films in the tradition of "Sideways," you will enjoy this film. I give it 3.5 out of five stars.

★★★½☆

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Wartburg College
Pathways
Services for Success

What: Career, Internship, and Graduate School Fair
Over 55 employers and graduate school
When: Tuesday, September 30 from 11:30am-3:30pm
Where: Hall of Champions in "The W."
Who: Open to all students!

Sports

Women knock off IIAC rival, 2-0

Luke Ullestad
Assistant Sports Editor

The Wartburg women's soccer team captured a win against the Loras Duhawks, 2-0 at the Waverly Soccer Complex to help celebrate Family Weekend, on Saturday.

"The girls are creating with the opportunities that they have and making things happen in scoring," head coach T.J. Buchholz said.

Wartburg recorded goals from Rachel Oswald and Jess Macauley. Macauley connected with the net during the 61st minute with an assist from Oswald and Kari Krolikowski. Oswald scored her ninth goal of the season in an unassisted goal in the 71st minute to put the Knights in front, 2-0. Oswald was the IIAC women's soccer player of the week.

"At the end of the day, you have to score goals and to come away and go 2-0 over Loras is a great win for our girls," Buchholz said.

The Knights tallied 11 shots while the Duhawks posted nine. Each team had attempted five shots during the first period, but the score was still locked at zero after one half. Rachel Coleman had three saves for the Knights and Christie Ernst also had one. Torey Murray for the Duhawks posted four saves.

Photo Courtesy of Sports Information

Rachel Oswald works towards the goal against the Loras Duhawks.

The black and orange faced the Grand View College Vikings last Tuesday, Sept. 23 at home and came out with a 2-0 win.

The Knights attempted 18 shots and allowed only two from the Vikings, which both came in the second period.

Lauren Thomas found the back of the net during the 31st minute as she connected with her second goal of the season to put the Knights in the lead, 1-0. Oswald scored the Knights' second and last goal of the game in the 56th minute, with the assist from Mackenzie Moore.

The Knights have a break in action until Saturday, Oct. 4 as they head to Mount Vernon to take on the Rams of Cornell beginning at 1p.m.

Contact Luke Ullestad at Luke.Ullestad@wartburg.edu

Tennis team falls to Div. II teams

Pam Rodgers *Staff Writer*

The women's tennis team suffered a 7-2 loss from the undefeated Upper Iowa Peacocks at home last Tuesday.

Wartburg struggled against its Div. II opponents with its only two points from No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles.

"It was another chance to play against tough competition before heading into the conference tournament in two weeks," head coach Ben Oestreich said.

Emily Heying

Molly Eslick continues to be Wartburg's bright spot at No. 1 singles as she topped her opponent Kasey Huisman in straight sets 6-3, 6-0.

At No. 2 doubles, Emily Heying and teammate Natalie Branstad scraped out a victory 9-7 over the Peacocks' Courtney Romer and Kelsey Montgomery.

Heying played a close No. 2 singles as her foe Mallery Cox had to work for each point playing tie-breaks in both sets to top Heying 7-6, 7-5.

"Emily fought a tough opponent all match. She put herself in position to win but a few points went the other way. Sometimes that happens," Oestreich said.

The loss puts the Knights' overall record at 1-11. Wartburg takes this weekend off but will hit the road next Saturday as they travel to Cedar Rapids in a conference triangular with Coe and Cornell. The meet will begin at 10 a.m.

"We've been battling every weekend for a month. Now is a great time to get away from it all for a minute to recharge before making our final push.

"We have two tough duals coming up next week and then the IIAC tournament begins," Oestreich said.

Contact Pam Rodgers at Pam.Rodgers@wartburg.edu

Cross country runs through struggles

Drew Shradel *Staff Writer*

The men and women's cross country team traveled to the University of Minnesota this weekend to race in the Roy Griak Invitational as the women came away with a second-place finish and the men with a 16th place finish.

The women were led by Anna Kraayenbrink when she finished in third place in a field of 497 runners with a time of 22:16. The men were led by Brian Chenoweth as he ran a time of 25:28, a time worthy of being the meet runner-up out of a field of 307 runners.

The runner-up women's team had some other strong finishes by Jennifer and Amanda Kuiken finishing yet again within a second and a place of each other with times of 23:15 and 23:16. They finished 12th and 13th place respectively. The fourth spot on the team was taken by Laura Sigmund who ran a 24:11 placing in 57th, and Brendelyn White who finished 66th with a time of 24:20.

"Finishing second this weekend was awesome," Kraayenbrink said, "I think it really boosted our confidence as a team. Coach Johnson pulled two of our top girls out of the race at the last minute, due to illness. Coming so close to one of the best teams in the nation, despite the circumstances, was truly exciting. Our team has a lot of talent and few of our girls really stepped it up."

The No. 12-ranked women finished as the meet runners-up with a total score of 151 points, 41 points behind No. 3 UW-Eau Claire. The No. 16 team of UW-La Crosse finished third, only nine points behind the Knights.

Joel Rasmussen finished with a time of 25:28, good for 91st place, Nick Lee with a time of 28:06 for 107th place, Ben Porter finished fourth on the team running a time of 28:09 and a place of 110th, and rounding out the Knights top five was Jordan Wildermuth with a time of 28:11 good for 111th place.

The men's team finished with a score of 421 giving them a 16th place finish as a team out of 31 teams. The winner of the Roy Griak meet was won by No. 3 UW- La Crosse with a total of 52 points as they had three runners in the top ten. Second and third place were taken by No. 32 Emory with 141 points and No. 9 Ohio Northern finishing only six points behind them.

The Knights will have the weekend off.

On October 11, Wartburg will host the Dan Huston Invite at their home course. Races are scheduled to start at 10:45 a.m.

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Four Stooges Football Predictions

Austin "Get Rowdy" Draude KWAR Sports	Seth "The Judge and" Drury WTV8 Sports	Nikki "No-Nonsense" Newbrough WTV8 Sports	Mac "McLovin" Slavin Trumpet Sports

Standings

1. "The Judge" 8-2 (2-1)
2. "McLovin" 6-4 (1-2)
3. "No-No" 5-5 (1-2)
4. "Rowdy" 3-7 (1-2)

"Tell Me!"

Wartburg's Video Festival, January 30, 2009

Call for Short "You Tube" Videos by College Students

College students should submit their videos of 2 minutes or less on energy conservation, alternative energy sources, or carbon footprinting. Students are encouraged to explore old ideas, unveil new ones, and tell about the human experience, theories, and concepts. Content, videography, editing and impact will be determining factors in the top three cash awards.

Cash prizes of $1,000, $750, and $500 will be awarded to the top three winners and $250 to up to three honorable mention videos.

To read more about the Wartburg "Tell Me!" Video Festival and the contest rules and guidelines go to **www.wartburg.edu/vidfest/**

Submissions are being accepted through December 19.

COMMISSION ON MISSION

Wartburg College's Commitment to Living Out its Mission

SPORTS

Golfers hold early lead

Photo Courtesy of Sports Information

Ellen Rickert hits a pitch shot during the first round of the IIAC tourney.

SETH DRURY *ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR*

The No. 6 Knights stand atop the leader board in first place after the first weekend of the Iowa Conference Women's Golf tournament.

Wartburg shot a 315 on Friday, which put them in first and ahead of Central by 10 strokes. Saturday was more of the same for the Knights as they shot a 319 and upped their lead to 14 strokes.

Individually, the top five Wartburg women placed in the top 15 for the Knights. Placing top for the Knights was Steph Burns who was first after Friday but fell to second overall firing a two-day total of 156.

Following Burns for the Knights was Kate Thompson who shot a two-day total of 162 shooting an 81 on both days, good enough for sixth.

Daina Deery and Paige Klostermann finished the second round in a tie for seventh place shooting a total of 163. Ellen Rickert, the fifth golfer for the Knights, placed 14th and shot a 168.

Central shot a 648 for a two-day total. Sixteen shots behind the Dutch are the Norse and the Storm.

The Iowa Conference Championships start again this Friday and finish Saturday at Blank Park Golf Course in Des Moines.

Contact Seth Drury at Seth.Drury@wartburg.edu

Athletic facilities get upgrades

PAM RODGERS *STAFF WRITER*

The Wartburg Athletic Department underwent some changes this summer as the tennis and soccer teams are still in the process of getting their outdoor facilities revamped.

The tennis and soccer programs will have improved facilities in the future with minor inconveniences.

The tennis courts were torn down in the summer and reconstruction began Sept. 2.

Rebuilding the tennis courts was not connected with the floods as the plans were already being discussed before Waverly was hit with the flood.

"It was discussed for the past year and moved forward in July," Athletic Director Rick Willis said.

The court surface needed improvements due to peeling paint and some areas were too dangerous to use. The rusty fence needed to be replaced because of gaps at the bottom, which allowed tennis balls to roll under and become hazardous for other players.

"The new facility will create a different atmosphere for tennis," head men and women's tennis coach Ben Oestreich said.

The biggest change is a spectator section in the middle of the courts, which will be added to put fans in the middle of the action. Previously, the only place for fans was outside the fence. The facility will also have lights, giving users ultimate flexibility.

Oestreich credits the administration with most of the planning on the project.

"They recognized an opportunity to provide a place on campus that is used for varsity athletes, students, faculty and the Waverly community that could be a representation of what Wartburg is. Wartburg isn't peeling paint and a rusty fence," Oestreich said.

Although the number of courts remains unchanged at eight, there is a vast difference in quality. The layout and design are some of the best in Iowa.

"Between 'The W' and the new outdoor tennis facility, we will have a real gem for recruiting," Oestreich said.

The women's team had to travel to Waverly-Shell Rock for practices and games this fall season, but the new facility should be complete by November.

The tennis teams were not the only programs to have improvements made to their outdoor facilities. The soccer field renovation started in May.

The soccer field project included a number of things. The additions to the facility were lights and fencing on both ends of the field. The improvements came on the actual field as it was regraded, tiled and re-seeded.

"The field aspect was not expected, but was needed due to drainage problems with the previous field," Willis said.

The field is located by D-Lot and Hertel Baseball Field. The dry run creek flows right by the field, and it has caused the drainage problems.

The new grass should also provide a more consistent playing surface for the athletes. The lights add a new element to the field to allow for more flexible practices and the possibility of a night game.

"I think having the lights at the field is the most significant improvement to the field," head men and women's soccer coach T.J. Buchholz said. "Playing at night has the ability to attract more spectators, and it gives another dynamic to playing late afternoons."

The soccer athletes will not play on the field until next season, instead they have been playing at the Waverly Soccer Complex. The end results of the renovation prove to be a motivation despite not being on campus.

"The upgrades to the field continue to give a better playing environment for our teams and community to watch competitive soccer," Buchholz said.

Contact Pam Rodgers at Pam.Rodgers@wartburg.edu

Wartburg female starts hitting the octagon for MMA fights

MAC SLAVIN *SPORTS EDITOR*

Jess Burrier is your everyday Wartburg student, except on Tuesday and Thursday nights, when she gets together with some friends and trains as a Mixed Martial Artist.

Mixed Martial Arts, MMA, is a sport that is growing all over the country and combines martial arts with wrestling and boxing.

"I've always liked watching it on TV and I've always had a background in wrestling, and it seemed like a really good workout, so I thought why not try it," Burrier said.

One thing that makes her unique, however, is that she is part of a handful of women in the area who fight.

"I think girls aren't afraid to fight, but I think they are afraid it's male dominated," she said. "There's like three or four girls in the area that fight."

But Burrier thinks things are looking up and more females are getting involved with the sport and she hopes that it will pick up.

"I think girls should get involved because it's a great workout and it teaches you self-defense. I've never gotten in a fight outside of the ring, but I am happy to say that I know how to defend myself if it were to come to that," she said.

Burrier said women seem to be scared to get into a male-dominated sport. Burrier said she was nervous about her first fight. But she had a blast and cannot wait to do another one, she said.

"I'm nervous to do it again, because now I know the pain," she laughed, "but I mean it's such a rush."

She encouraged women to get involved with the sport.

"I got involved because it's a great workout, and the fighting was just a bonus," she said. "Heck, you lose weight and you get in shape!

"I think girls should be proud that they can be tough too and I think once the word gets out there more that girls can do it and that girls are doing it, they will feel a little more comfortable to start."

She also stressed that she does not compare herself to her male counterparts. While taking a jujitsu class in Waterloo, she was paired up with a man.

"And I remember saying, don't take it easy on me because I'm a girl," she said. "I've never compared myself to guys."

Even so she does work out with the guys.

"They are the only people that I can train with," she said, "we would like to get more people involved on campus.

"I encourage people if they are even slightly curious come and talk to us, if you don't think you can do it trust me you have that bone in your body."

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Men struck down by conference foe Loras

MAC SLAVIN *SPORTS EDITOR*

The Wartburg men's soccer team dropped a close game to rival Loras Saturday, 2-1.

The Knights started the scoring in the 25th minute with a Victor Mudzinganyama goal.

"In the first half we played really well, but in the second half we got disorganized a little bit, we missed the mark on a corner kick and they were able to punish us," head coach T.J. Buchholz said.

Loras tied the score in the 80th minute after Tyler Hoyt found the back of the net. In the 85th minute Loras took the lead after a Donnie St. George score. Trent Michael was in the net for the Knights and recorded six saves.

Earlier in the week the Knights hosted Augustana (Ill.) and brought home a 1-0 victory.

Kyle McKenna found the back of the net for the unassisted goal in the 21st minute. Michael was again in the net for the Knights as he made four saves in the victory.

Luke Shanno/*TRUMPET*

Josh Inglebright fights for the ball against Augustana.

The games bring the Knights record to 6-3. The Knights will travel to Cornell Saturday for a conference match-up. Kick-off is set for 3 p.m.

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TRUMPET SPORTS

Upcoming Schedule

Tuesday - Volleyball @ Buena Vista @ 7:30 p.m.

Friday - Women's Golf @ IIAC Rd. 3 @ Blank Park Golf Course in Des Moines

Saturday - Women's Tennis @ Cornell @ 10 a.m.
Football @ Buena Vista @ 1 p.m.
Women's Soccer @ Cornell @ 1 p.m.
Men's Soccer @ Cornell @ 3 p.m.

Knights win in five

AL STRAIN *STAFF WRITER*

The Knights showed the crowd a good match, downing the Cornell Rams in five sets. It was Parents' Night last Thursday in Buzz Levick Arena for the volleyball team.

The win was a big one for the Knights, since Cornell was already 2-0 in conference play. The win brought the Knights to a 1-1 IIAC record.

Knights' head coach Jennifer Walker was happy with the win.

"This was a huge win for us, it was a difference between 0-2 or 1-1" she said.

"We really needed this win to prove to ourselves that we could get this win."

The Knights used Parents' Night as extra motivation against the favored Rams.

"I think we started off really well, we had a great crowd," Walker said.

Behind the energy of the gym, the Knights took the first set with a 25-19 score. Cornell rallied in the second set to win with a 25-20 score.

Set number three went back and forth throughout the whole set. Wartburg downed a late rally with a much needed side-out with the Rams charging. The Knights took the third set 25-21.

The Knights seemed to have the match wrapped up in set four, but a late rally by Cornell gave them the set by a 25-22 score. The match headed to a deciding fifth set.

"We decided to focus on the strategy side of it and focus so the emotion was taken out of it" Walker said.

Behind six consecutive service points for Channing Merchant, the Knights took the fifth set 15-7. The match went to the Knights with a 3-2 final.

Leading the way for the Knights were Kelsey Steffens and Lindsay Schneider. Steffens had 17 kills to go with four ace serves and six digs. Schneider added 15 kills with 13 digs.

Cornell was led by Laura Dudgeon and Suzi Enoch, who had 14 and 11 kills respectively.

The Knights go on the road next to face Buena Vista University. The match will be played on Tuesday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.

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Mac Slavin/*TRUMPET*

Britney Hermsen (12) and Jane Ohde (15) go up for a block attempt.

Defense dominates Rams

Knights move to 2-0 in IIAC play with 37-14 victory

LUKE SHANNO *EDITOR-IN-CHIEF*

The Wartburg football team added clips to its defensive highlight reel Saturday as two defensive scores helped the Knights top the Cornell Rams 37-14 in Iowa Conference action.

"This win was big for us," defensive back Josh Faaborg said. "One of the main things that we talked about during practice was coming out strong and proving that it didn't take a big game like Central to get us up. This was a big one to come out and perform well in."

The No. 23 Knights trailed early as the Rams marched 73 yards on eight plays to take the 7-0 lead.

Wartburg answered Cornell's early score as Nick Yordi threw a 40-yard touchdown pass to Justin Vetter.

Wartburg broke the game wide open in the second quarter when Spencer Policha intercepted Cornell's Dallas Bush's pass and returned it 51 yards to put the Knights up 13-7. Spencer Herzberg's point-after attempt was blocked.

Wartburg's second scoring drive took less time than its first as a 30-yard touchdown pass from Yordi to Ryan Hoerner capped a two-play scoring drive that covered 44 yards, putting the Knights up 20-7.

The Knights wasted no time turning up the defense again as Faaborg recorded the second pick-six for the Knights as he intercepted a Bush pass at the 50-yard line and took it to the endzone, extending the Wartburg lead 27-7. Faaborg tallied three interceptions against the Rams, putting him in a three-way tie for the single-game record.

"The main thing we focused was making sure that everyone was doing their job," Faaborg said.

Luke Shanno/*TRUMPET*

Jason Lansing (7) and Andy Schmidt bring down a Cornell receiver.

Willis' squad opened the third quarter with an eight-play, 47-yard drive that resulted in a Herzberg field goal, putting the Knights ahead 30-7.

Cornell answered the Wartburg scoring drive with a touchdown of their own after a nine-play, 64-yard drive.

Wartburg tacked one more touchdown on the scoreboard after a three-play, 58-yard touchdown drive that was highlighted by a 53-yard Yordi scamper with 12 minutes left in the game.

Yordi passed for over 200 yards for the seventh consecutive game. Vetter led the receiving category as he pulled down 10 catches for 126 yards.

Wartburg, now 3-1 overall and 2-0 in Iowa Conference action will travel to Storm Lake to face Buena Vista in a 1 p.m. showdown Saturday.

"B.V. always plays us pretty tough, especially there," Faaborg said.

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FROM AHLDEN

Fall time is prime time for sports fans

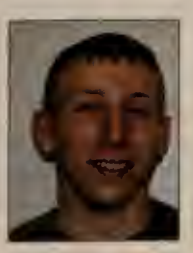
AL STRAIN *STAFF WRITER*

The sun is still shining, but the leaves are changing colors. It is the beginning of fall, and now is the best time of the year to be a sports fan.

There is so much going on in the world of sports right now. As long as you are a fan of sports, there is something for you right now.

Not a fan of professional sports, then now is a perfect time of year. College football is entering conference play. The rivalry of school versus school is enough to make any sports fan watch.

Not only that, but there is something so pure about watching players play strictly out of their love for the game. There is no money, it is just players going out on Saturday afternoons to represent their school.



To go along with college football, the National Football League (NFL) is now getting into full swing. Preseason is over and all of the games count now. The NFL season has already divided Wartburg's campus. Every Sunday you can see groups of students dressed in Packer green or Viking purple.

Baseball's pennant races are heating up. The end of September is the most important time of the Major League Baseball season. Every day brings about games that have playoff implications. Every night fans crowd televisions to see results, checking the pennant races. The players play with such emotion that you cannot help but be attracted to the games.

Baseball at this point is going into what we all love about sports. Athletes going beyond what we see as motivation, the chance to be a champion. Players are playing for more than themselves. Consider the Chicago Cubs, a team that has not been crowned as champions for a century. They are knocking on destiny's door.

It's crunch time all over the world of sports at the moment. Golf just wrapped up the Ryder Cup with the U.S. team beating the Europeans for the first time since 1999. NASCAR is in the middle of its "Chase for the Cup," too. It is championship season.

Workouts for winter sports are beginning. NBA's training camps will be starting shortly, with NCAA basketball not far behind.

Sports are a year-round passion of mine, but make no mistake, it is during the early fall when I find it best to be a sports fan.

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